IN THE BEGINNING

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Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
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IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 10 - No. 39 **July, 1977**

Lester A. Harding - Editor

Editor's Notes —

While much has been said and told about the Log Cabin that has been re-constructed just to the west of the Woodson County Historical Museum, we would like to add some more to it in this issue of "In The Beginning". The grand opening of the cabin came during the three day holiday over Memorial Day.

The cabin had been furnished with articles donated by the people that were interested in the project.

The cover picture is a portrait of Josiah Daniel, who was the builder of the original log cabin down on Big Sandy Creek, in 1866. This picture hangs on the east wall of the cabin. On the bed just under the picture is a quilt that was made by Josiah's wife Elizebeth Daniel many years ago, but is still in good condition. These were donated by members of the Doster Daniel family.

The planning and arrangement of the various articles in the cabin try to picture somewhat of how it may have looked years ago, when it was a popular gathering place for the Daniel clan to meet.

The fireplace came from what was originally the Askren log cabin, built along a spring-fed branch not far from upper Turkey Creek. It was located just west and some south of the Askren Cemetery twelve miles northwest of Yates Center. The fireplace was built around seven years before the cabin to which it is attached.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Richard Pringle own the land on which the cabin was moved from and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Ibbetson the land from which the fireplace was moved from.

As told before this cabin was a Bicentennial project, assisted by the Woodson County Historical Society and placed on property of the Historical Society, and was given to and placed under the care of this Society. A brochure telling all about the cabin and fire place has been prepared. We will borrow the last lines from this. "May this cabin serve as a symbol of the past and to our faith in the future of America."

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

The March, 1977 meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was held at the Woodson House, with the Senior Belles putting on a program of singing with a few songs by the entire group. Vonda Herder, local librarian of Yates Center Public Library, gave an interesting talk about the history of the local library, and some of the actual working of the library during the years of its existance. Elizebeth Linde had charge of the evening program.

There were 46 present for the dinner and about 20 of the Belles coming later.

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The Museum opened for the season on May 28, 1977. However there were two groups toured the building by special appointment. Sixteen members of the Girl Scout Troop of Yates Center, with their leader toured the Museum on April 12. They were followed by The High School American Folklore Class, with seventeen members and the sponsor.

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A Memorial program was held at the May 24th meeting. The Memorial was given in memory of the persons deceased since last Memorial Day. They were Harvey Klick, Russell Manske, LaNelle Hanson Swope and A. G. "Gus" Fulhage. There have been 57 members of the Woodson County Historical Society deceased since the Society was organized in March, 1965. These names were all read during this Memorial serivce.

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The Woodson County Historical Museum was a very busy place over the Memorial Day weekend, as it was open on the three days, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. There were around a hundred persons from various places toured the Museum and the Log Cabin during the three days. The buildings will be open each afternoon five days a week — Thursday through Sunday for the remainder of the season.

There will be at least two volunteer persons at the Museum each of these days.

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Join and Support the
Woodson County Historical Society

Life Membership $25.00 Regular Membership $2.00 a year

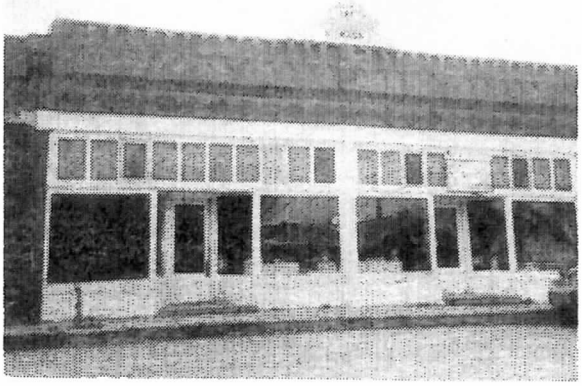
THE LOUIS C. NIEMANN FAMILY OF PIQUA —

The town of Piqua was just two years old when Louis C. Niemann arrived in the town. He started in as a clerk in the general store of a Mr. Marcus. Marcus had just purchased the store from J. W. Kesterson, who had built the store on the north side of Second Street which seemed to be the main street of the town. This was around 1882.

Shortly after arriving here and working at the store Niemann became a partner in the firm with the name of Marcus and Niemann. This was succeeded by another partnership of Niemann and Grogman. Niemann became the sole owner.

Louis C. Niemann was born in St. Louis in November, 1861. His father Frederick A. Niemann was a native of Prussia. Coming to America and to St. Louis, he engaged in the merchandising business. The father died when Louis C. Niemann was very young. When he was 14 years old Louis C. went to live with an uncle, H. H. Heiman at Aviston, Illinois. His mother whose maiden name was Johanna Lempke, remarried and moved to Illinois.

When he was 24 years old, Niemann came to Kansas and to Piqua in 1884. He and Mr. Marcus seemed to have come here at the same time. After getting full control of the store, Mr. Niemann built another store building on the south side of the street. This later burned. He then erected the present store building just to the west of where the bank was for many years. That was about 1910-12.



This picture is of that building taken just 93 years after L. C. Niemann first operated a store in Piqua in 1884. The coping over the top of the store has the inscription — Niemann - Established 1884.

Louis C. Niemann and Maggie Santen were married May 18, 1886, in Humboldt, Kansas. They were the parents of six children, three dying in infancy. The others were Anna, Frances and Edward.

Anna married Otto Link. They had no children.

Frances married Wm. J. Riley. They had two sons, Maurice W., and Robert. Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Riley lived in Piqua all of their lives. Mr. Riley was a well-known auctioneer, until his death in 1970.

Edward Niemann married Elizebeth Habiger. They were the parents of three children, Sister Mary, Sister Martha and Louis. Louis died at the age of sixteen years.

Edward grew up in the store of his father, and at the death of his father took over the management of the store.

After 93 years, the store is still in the family name, being operated by Ed Niemann and his wife Elizebeth. The store no doubt has changed much in these years, but it is an orderly store supplying groceries and general merchandise to the country surrounding the small town of Piqua.

West side of square, Yates Center, around 1914. The south side of the postoffice seems to be a favorite loafing place, with no vehicle on the street except the rear end of a dairy wagon on extreme right of the picture. North or Washington school at far end of street.

THE PELER (PEALER) FORD ON TURKEY CREEK —

Proceedings of Woodson County Commissioners, held at Neosho Falls, April 5, 1864.

"A petition was presented praying for a review of a road running through the premises of John W. Smith and R. Goings of Liberty township, Woodson County. And the petition had bond, being put on file in the county clerk's office. The board granted the review and the following persons were appointed to view and alter and amend said road as they deem best; Benj. Miller, J. P. Tucker and Asa Whitney, to meet at the residence of John Smith on Turkey Creek Saturday, April 28, at 10 a.m. 1864."

Some time before this a road had been proposed to run from the north part of Neosho Falls due west on section lines for 14 miles. This road would cross Turkey Creek on the premises of John Smith and across the R. Goings farm.

Also about this time these two men had also protested the LeRoy-Eureka road crossing their premises. There was not a very good crossing on Turkey Creek on the direct line from Neosho Falls to the corner 14 miles west.

Due to happenings in the Civil War that affected this county this road was not surveyed out at that time.

"A second petition was presented to the board of county commissioners at their next meeting at Neosho Falls on April 11, 1865, (a year later) for the road that went through the premises of Smith and Goings."

Commencing at the Southeast corner of section 27, Twp. 23, R. 15 (US-75, 9 miles north of Yates Center), then diagonally northwest to what is known as Peler Ford on Turkey Creek, thence up said creek to Southeast Corner of Thomas Siria's premises, thence west 160 rods, thence diagonally southwest to the Southwest corner of section 28, intersecting the county road. Viewers appointed were, David Askren, Thomas Siria and James Baldwin.

County Commissioners present were Thomas Siria and John Lobaugh.

Wm. B. Stines was the deputy surveyor that laid the road out.

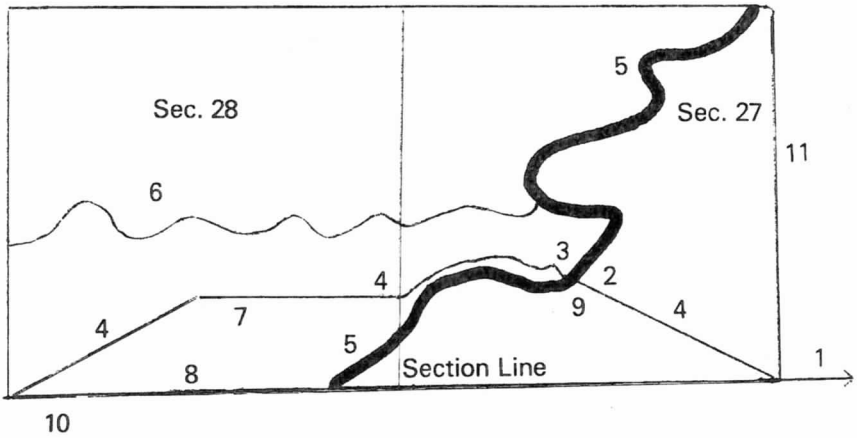
While the crossing was still referred to as Peler Ford, it is believed that the man called Peler had moved on. The name was misspelled as Peler as it should have been spelled Pealer.

The Pealer family evidently came here in the latter 1850's, possibly 1857-58. The family consisted of John Pealer, his wife Rachael and small daughter Mary. Whether they came with a group or just themselves we never learned but they picked a place for their cabin near this crossing that was almost solid limestone. This was the best

crossing for some distance along the creek. The place where John Pealer picked to build his log cabin was about a quarter mile south of where Duck Creek entered Turkey Creek.

In early 1860, John Pealer was 45 years old. He was a native of Missouri. His wife Rachael was a native of Illinois and was 26 years old. Their only child Mary was five years old and had been born in Illinois, so they had evidently came here from that state.

After building his crude log cabin Pealer did not stake any claim and possibly just made a meager living off the land hunting, fishing and possibly a garden and perhaps a small patch of ground. In the 1860 census Pealer did not list any real estate nor any personal property so seemingly the Pealer's had very little inside the cabin or out. It would be interesting to know just how long they lived at the ford along Turkey Creek and where they went. They had evidently left before this road was surveyed across Pelers Ford, as the land at that time belonged to James Baldwin, an early day settler along Turkey Creek. The Baldwin Ranch headquarters were where the A. Wendall Stockebrand home now is.



1 - Road to Neosho Falls
2 - Pelers Ford
3 - Cabin of John Pealer
4 - The newly surveyed road
5 - Turkey Creek
6 - Duck Creek
7 - Home of John Smith
8 - R. Goings Home
9 - Baldwin Ranch House
10 - School Dist. No. 1
11 - US-75 (Present)

GONE UP IN SMOKE — FIRST FIRE ON THE SQUARE —

Between 2 and 3 o'clock on Monday morning, February 15, 1884, the dread cry of Fire, the first in our history - greeted the ears of sleeping people. The fire started in the southwest corner of the square, in the stone building occupied by the general store of T. W. Wilson. The Wilson store was in the downstairs of the stone building, while the Yates Center Argus - newspaper and printing establishment was in the upstairs rooms. The Argus was printed by N. B. Buck, proprieter.

The fire then spread to the two wooden buildings on the east. The first victim was a narrow wood structure which housed S. Johnsons furniture wareroom, while the S. R. Shirley, photographer and art gallery was upstairs. Mr. Shirley who evidently was not well, collapsed on the stair steps and was dragged to safety by his wife.

The next building in the track of the fire was S. Johnson's Furniture and Undertaking establishment which fell easy prey to the advancing flames. This building had quite a history behind it as it was one of the first half dozen buildings in the town of Kalida in 1869 and was moved to the townsite of Yates Center in August 1875. "It was the first structure to adorn the site of the present metropolis." It was used as the first courthouse in Yates Center as well as housing at different times a general store, drug store, a "hard pan" exchange, a residence, a millinery shop and furniture emporium.

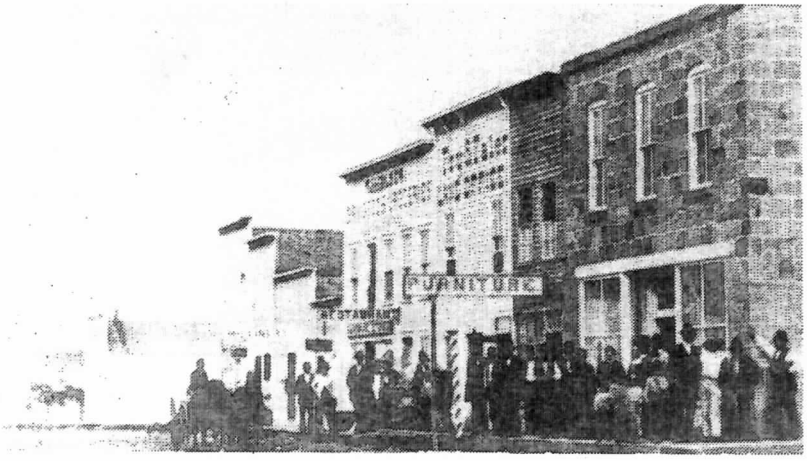
Next was the double store of C. C. Mills, a general store. The Mills family had living quarters upstairs, which was mostly lost.

As this was the first serious fire for the town they had poor organization, and the fire burned for about an hour before being discovered, and were not prepared for fire. Other businesses being burned out were the Popkiss Coal Co., and the C. A. Stutz, Watch and Clock repair store.

With the street covered with a conglomeration of all kinds of goods the crowd finally got organized. A bucket brigade or line was formed from the southeast corner of the square and men on top of the next building owned by Mr. Skinner the fire was brought under control.

(The above was taken from the Yates Center News of February 15, 1884. It is interesting to note that the first fire on the square in 1884 started in the same stone building on the southwest corner of the square that the last fire on the square occurred in May, 1975. This building was built or started in February, 1879. T. W. Wilson was the owner and Ruebin Kain, the stone mason.

The 1975 fire referred to was the burning out of the Baker Drug Store, Jay Atkins operator, and the Western Auto Store, Thelma and Gregg Brown, owners. The stone firewall on the east side of the building was evidently erected after the 1884 fire. Everybodys Grocery, operated by Langley on the east side of the firewall suffered quite a lot of smoke and water damage.



The southwest corner of the square in Yates Center as it looked at the time of the fire in 1884. The fire started in the same stone building as it did in 1975.

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SIAMESE TWINS BORN IN YATES CENTER —

Siamese twin daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. Adam Church of Yates Center Sunday afternoon, November 4, 1934. Dr. George R. Lee, attending physician, reports the birth was normal and that the mother is doing nicely. The twins position was face to face and were joined together from the upper part of the chest to the lower part of the abdomen. The babies were fully developed and the two weighed nine pounds, one body weighing one pound more than the other. One baby lived a few minutes after birth, the other was still born.

One reads of Siamese twins, but it does not come often within the radius of small town history. This is so far as the records show, the only case in Woodson County. Many people visited Dr. Lee's office Monday and Tuesday where the bodies were properly cared for. Some doctors from nearby towns came to see the unusual phenomena. (Taken from the Yates Center News.)

THE KECK METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH —

The first church and Sunday School in that area was held in the District No. 57 schoolhouse. It was known at that time as the Pace schoolhouse. Several years ago Hugh Campbell remarked that although the Campbell home was two miles north and a mile west of the schoolhouse that his mother Mrs. Generva Campbell would take the three Campbell boys, Hugh, Rhea and Irvin and walk the three miles to church on Sunday afternoons.

In the files of the Yates Center News of 1895-96, we found these items.

"On the 1st day of February Mr. and Mrs. George A. Farnum invited a lot of friends and neighbors to assist in a sort of a donation party for the M.E. minister who preached at the Juse schoolhouse (Dist. No. 57). About $20 in money and provisions were raised."

January 3, 1896, Keck — A good crowd was out to the laying of the corner stone of the new church on Saturday, December 28, 1895. An interesting sermon was preached at the schoolhouse by Rev. Caldwell. . . . The Ladies Aid Society will give a night cap social at the schoolhouse January 4. Ladies are expected to bring baskets with supper for two, also two night caps. . . . A great many plans for Christmas were changed on account of the rain and bad roads.

January 17, "The plans for the new church have arrived. Its dimensions will be 24 by 36 feet. Ample room for the neighborhood."

January 24th — "The foundations for the new church is now complete. . . Juse will soon be a thing of the past after the first of March. Our post office will then be known as Keck. There will be preaching at the schoolhouse next Sunday at the regular hour, 3 o'clock."

The Ladies Aid will meet with Mrs. A. A. Keck Thursday.

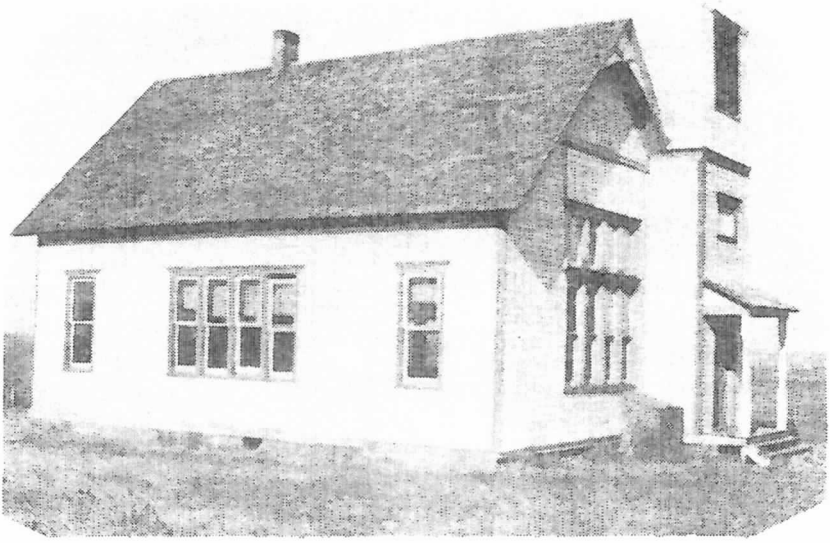
February 7, 1896 — The Ladies Aid Society gave a dinner to the workmen on the church last Saturday at A. A. Keck's. There were fifteen men employed on the building. The work is progressing nicely. The building is now enclosed.

I. M. Askren brought his camera to the last building bee and photographed the church while the men were still at work. Mr. Askren does good work.

The church was dedicated on Sunday, June 7, 1896, with the services being conducted by Rev. L. H. Murlin, Pres. Baker U. A large crowd attended the dedication, although it rained hard through most of the services. J. B. Mackinzie, Pastor.

In 1905, a minister, J. H. Oliver, held a "protacted" meeting at Keck Church. Quite a few people joined the church.

A mile east and a mile south of Keck lived a family named Jones who had several children. The oldest, Lula played the organ during these meetings. The next to the oldest girl was Myrtle. They remembered these meetings because the entire family joined the church at that time.



The Keck M.E. Church as it stood at the northeast corner of the little village. There was Sunday School each Sunday with preaching every other Sunday, the preacher coming from Gridley. An Epworth League was organized and was held each Sunday evening.

The Keck M.E. Church was a popular place during its lifetime. As the population shifted in that locality the Sunday School would decline, only to be started up again by others. At the time the church was built there were many fine homes around Keck, each having their own nice orchard. But by 1920 most of these homes were moved away or abandoned and the church was not used anymore, so was put up for sale by the Methodist Conference.

Harry Manifold was the high bidder at the auction sale and the church was torn down and moved to the Manifold farm where it was used in remodeling their home. At the time the church was built, some papers were placed in a hollowed out stone used as a corner stone. However, water seeped in and the papers were destroyed. Another corner stone with the inscription Keck M.E. Church, 1895 has been placed in the Woodson County Museum.

A LOT OF EXCITEMENT OVER A MORTGAGE - JUNE 1881 —

While court was in session Tuesday p.m., and an unusual quietness prevailed over the town, suddenly loud and repeated outcries were heard in vicinity of the courthouse.

In a moment all was excitement and confusion. Nobody knew what was the matter. Abe Smith was seen to hurriedly mount his horse and ride off at breakneck speed around the square.

At the courthouse it was stated that J. P. Cowdin had absconded with $1,000 in currency and a check for $1,450 belonging to August Todman.

Sheriff Davis, Abe Smith, Robert Jones and Newt Sain were soon mounted and in pursuit, while William Stockebrand started for Humboldt to stop payment on the check.

August Todman was holder of a mortgage on Cowdin's land and had brought suit to foreclose same. On Tuesday the parties effected a comprise. Todman released the mortgage and Lee Robbins took one and loaned Cowdin money to pay Todman. Robbins handed the money - $1,000 in currency and a check for $1,450 - to Cowdin, who counted it and called for his notes and mortgage held by Todman. Mr. Pickett, Todman's attorney handed them to him supposing he would turn over the money. Instead Cowdin put money, notes and mortgage in pocket and fled, with Pickett and Todman after him crying "Stop that man!" Cowdin ran to his horse nearby, mounted and started east, pursued by the persons mentioned. Cowdin reached his farm, four miles east of town with Smith close on his heels. Here he changed horses, but left saddle and bridle. Streaking north across a cornfield he entered the timber and crossed Owl Creek.

Here they lost him. Davis and Smith going toward Iola, they picked up his tracks and tracked him within 8 miles of Iola. Jones and Sain went towards Humboldt. Reaching Iola Davis went to the telegraph office and sent wire with description.

Cowdin reached Humboldt 1 1/2 hours before his pursuers, cashed his check and was taking things easy when Jones, Sain and Stockebrand arrived. After consultation with his attorney Cowdin put himself under the supervision of Wm. Stockebrand and returned to Yates Center.

* * * * *

Just what immediate legal proceedings were followed about Cowdin we never learned, but in the Yates Center Argus, of August 21, 1884, we found the following.

SHERIFF'S SALE NOTICE —

State of Kansas, Woodson County-ss

By virtue of an order of sale issued out of the office of the Clerk of District Court of Woodson County, Kans. on the 18th day of July, 1884, and to me directed, I will on Tuesday the 26th day of August, 1884, at the hour of one o'clock p.m. of said day, at the front door of the courthouse in Yates Center, the county seat of Woodson County, offer at public sale, and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand, a sum not less than two-thirds of the appraised value thereof, the following described real estate, situated in Woodson County, Kansas, to-wit: The Northeast quarter of section number seventeen, in township number twenty-five, south of range sixteen, east. The said real estate will be sold as the property of J. P. Cowdin to satisfy a judgement rendered against him and in favor of August Todman in the District Court of Woodson County, Kansas on the 11th day of March, 1882, for the sum of $2,845, with interest at the rate of 8 per cent, per annum and cost, and will be sold subject to one certain mortgage of one S. P. Robbins for $2,450, given on the 6th day of June, A.D. 1881. Said real estate is appraised at $2,350, subject to the mortgage aforesaid.

James W. Cannady, Sheriff Woodson County, Kansas

Pickett & Smith, Attorneys for Plaintiff

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The land described above as being sold was four miles east of Yates Center on the south side of the road. The building was almost a half mile south on the west side of the road going south. He purchased the farm in July, 1871.

And again we find Abe Smith the fiery ex-sheriff and Civil War veteran in the midst of the excitement. He seemed to always be on hand when anything was going on at the courthouse.

* * * * *

The above Sheriff's Sale does not seem to be the first one for this farm and owner. The first occurred October 23, 1883. It had been brought on by August Todman to satisfy a judgement. The highest bidder at that sale was Conradina Todman, wife of August Todman. The highest bid was only $1,270, not enough for the sale. J. M. Dickerson was sheriff at that time.

At the sale advertised above by Sheriff James Cannady which did not occur until March 13, 1885, Conradina Todman was again the highest bidder with $3100.

N. S. GOSS - ORNITHOLOGIST AND NATURALIST —

Nathaniel Stickney Goss has been pictured as a man of many talents and professions, but the one above is probably not known to many people of Woodson County.

The first mention we have of N. S. Goss was when he and a younger companion Isaac W. Dow ended a long journey in a one-horse open buggy from Pewaukee, Wisconsin in May, 1857. They built the first mill along the Neosho River in Woodson County and founded the town of Neosho Falls.

In 1860, N. S. Goss was commissioned major in the Kansas Militia, and in 1863 was made lieutenant-colonel of the Sixteenth militia regiment, with which he was engaged in active service in southwestern Kansas. After the Civil War he was appointed register of the United States land office at Humboldt, but resigned to become land attorney for the Missouri, Kansas & Texas (Katy) railroad, and later held same position with the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe.

For a while Goss was President of the Katy railroad and was instrumental in getting it through the corner of Woodson County. Goss was also President of the Neosho Falls Town Co., that was organized in 1860. This land was still New York Indian land until that year.

From his boyhood N. S. Goss was interested in birds. He and his brother Benjamin F. Goss, were lifelong companions in gathering bird eggs and preparing skins. Goss' early collections were started in Kansas, for in 1861 he wrote from Neosho Falls to his sister, "The rest of my time I spend catching birds - have been trying to catch a cardinal grosbeak for the past month, they are beautiful cage birds, and great singers."

During the 1860's, Goss traveled about in Kansas acquiring land for the railroads; he carried a double-barrelled shotgun with him. He kept some sort of field notebook to record his observations. In the 1870's Goss began collecting in earnest. He preserved data for each bird, including measurements, locality, and date. His collection of birds came from many states, Canada, Mexico, Upper Yukon and Central America.

Col. Goss became famous in Kansas for his travels and growing collection of birds. He also realized that something would have to be done to insure the fate of his collection after his death. They were outgrowing the space at Neosho Falls. In 1881, at the suggestion of Col. Goss, Senator Kelley introduced a bill entitled "An act to authorize the Executive Council of the State of Kansas to procure for the State the Goss Ornithological Collection." The Bill was passed

March 5th and $200 was appropriated to move the collection from Neosho Falls to Topeka.

By August of 1882 the Goss Collection was packed in large wooden boxes, ready to ship from Neosho Falls to Topeka. When the birds arrived in Topeka they were taken to a room in the east wing of the State House which had been designated as the new home of the collection. Two months later the collection was opened to the public amid much fanfare by the press of Topeka. Also by this time 930 birds of 440 species were neatly mounted, labeled and locked in display cases. Goss was on hand to answer questions about the birds and his now famous collecting trips. At that time the collection was estimated to be worth $20,000.

However, Col. Goss continued to travel extensively in search of new specimens for the collection. By March 1891, when Goss died, the collection totalled nearly 2,000 birds with 529 specimens of 343 species from Kansas.

Col. N. S. Goss died suddenly at the Katy depot in Neosho Falls, March 10, 1891, of heart trouble. He was buried at Topeka, the funeral service being conducted in the Senate chamber.

Col. Goss would have no doubt been very unhappy if it had been possible for him to know how his famous and life-long hobby was treated in later years. For the collection was moved five times, renovated twice, fought over by various groups, and ransacked by thieves. And by 1964 it was divided between two museums at Topeka.

* * * * *

In the later years of his life, Col. Goss was very busy in writing and preparing his book, "History of the Birds of Kansas", by N. S. Goss - Illustrating 529 Birds. The book is dedicated "To My Brother Capt. B. F. Goss, Oologist, With whom I have spent so many, many pleasant hours in the field."

Benjamin F. Goss, and his wife came to Neosho Falls early in 1857, where he took part in many affairs of Woodson County. During the Civil War, he was appointed as Captain of the company that was recruited at Neosho Falls. He later left Neosho Falls because too much river water ran down the streets during high water. His collection of birds eggs was on display at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

The book, "History of the Birds of Kansas", by Col. Goss, is a large volume of 693 pages. Each of the 529 birds are carefully described as to size, color, kind of nest and shape and size of eggs, habits and habitat.

Mr. Goss makes mention occasionally of birds that he saw or killed in this county, especially along the Neosho River. Some of these we will mention that are of interest.

"On April 14, 1876, Goss shot two Passenger Pigeons near Neosho Falls. Irregular summer resident; rare, a few to my knowledge breed occasionally in the Neosho Valley. Arrive early in March, begin laying by middle of April."

In his book, Mr. Goss used over four pages in describing and telling about the Wood Duck. "This elegant Duck with its full flowing crest and rich, varied attire is unsurpassed in beauty by any of the water birds. I have found them nesting in the Neosho Valley, Kansas, in large elm and sycamore trees, at least seventy feet from the ground. When the nests are too high for the little ones to drop in safety, the mother carries them one at a time, in her bill to the waters edge."

"The Whistling Swan — I have one in the 'Goss Ornithological Collection', shot March 12, 1875, in the Neosho Valley, Kansas, out of a flock of six."

"American Woodcock — On the 25th of May, 1874, while slowly moving about in the low bottom timber lands near Neosho Falls, Kansas, I came across an old bird with several young, at least one-fourth grown; the moment I appeared in sight the mother uttered a sharp alarm note to the little ones hiding like magic. Fluttering about rapidly uttering her warning note, until I was within ten feet, when she suddenly grasped a little one with toes, and in a low and laborious manner flew about thirty yards and dropped it in a thicket, then swiftly winged herself away."

"The Knot" — These birds are of the snipe family. "Migratory; rare. Two specimens, shot in the spring of the year, at Neosho Falls, by Col. W. L. Parsons, are the only ones to my knowledge captured or seen in the State."

"Swallow-tailed Kite (Falcon) — "On April 27th, 1876, a pair of Swallow-tailed Kites, put in an appearance at Neosho Falls, and as they continued to circle in their graceful flights over the same grounds - the edge of the prairie and timber on the Neosho River - I became satisfied that their nesting place would be selected within the circle. On the 5th of May they were joined by another pair, and later on in the day, two pairs of the Mississippi Kites appeared and joined in the circling flights. A pair of the Swallow-tailed birds built a nest in the top of a tall hickory tree."

Col. N. S. Goss

* * * * *

After being housed in the Kansas State Capitol in 1881, in the Kansas State Historical Society Building since 1915, the birds took their final trip (we hope), in March, 1977. They were moved from Topeka to Lawrence where the Goss Bird Collection will become a part of the ornithological collection at the Dyche Museum of Natural History at Kansas University.

The trip for these birds from Topeka to Lawrence was made in a large bus with Bob Patterson, vertebrate zoologist of Kansas University, having charge of the moving.

THE NEWS
E.W. Baker - Editor
Yates Center, Kansas - June 8, 1877 - Vol. 1, No. 1

"HOW" — We came because we wanted to, and we have come to stay. Our latch string is out. Come to see us.

YATES CENTER —

We cannot think of going to press without saying a few words about the beautiful little city in which we have located and expect to make our future home. Yates Center is doubtless the most thrifty and enterprising business point in the state for its age. The town is but a few months old, yet its rapid growth, handsome and costly improvements, compare favorably with many towns possessing more advantages and of a much riper age. The principle classes of business are represented and it's a matter of surprise to see the amount of commercial commodities brought to and exchanged at this market. The streets are crowded with teams and pedestrians and the fence around the square is lined with horses and vehicles, belonging to those who come here to trade. The following is a brief mention of those who are in business.

J. W. Depew, southwest corner of the square, carries a full line of dry goods, groceries and general merchandise.

L. Wilkinson, (successor to T. W. Wilson), south side of the square, dealer in dry goods, notions, boots, shoes, hats, caps, groceries, provisions, staple and fancy articles.

A. Vanslyke, northeast corner of the square, carries dry goods, notions, hardware, groceries, and other goods usually found in a general merchantile house.

Mrs. L. Ault, milinery and dress-making establishment, south side of the square, has a stock of goods that will compare with like establishments in a larger city.

Wells and Gailey, at the post office restaurant and confectionary store, carry a full stock of everything in their line, and are very accomodating and pleasant gentlemen.

J. M. Wolfer, proprietor of the city drug store, north side of the square has a complete and well appointed stock of drugs, and is prepared to supply the demand in the particular.

Clark Stewart, saddle and harness maker is an energetic young man, and furnishes the very best of work for the people of this county.

E. G. Mead, city meat market, keeps a constant supply of fresh meat.

C. A. Stutz, watchmaker and jeweler, east side of the square is a good workman and can supply anything in his line.

H. F. Chellis, carriage and wagon maker southeast corner of the square, is well provided with material, and with all is a genial gentleman to deal with.

Yates Center also boasts of two of the best hotels in southern Kansas. The Central, by C. W. Wilson, and the Taylor House, by W. P. Taylor.

* * * * *

Since its organization up until the present time Woodson County has lived and had its well being without the inestimable blessing of a Grand Jury. But at the present term of court, it has a full-fledged, real live Grand Jury, with all its appendages of officers, writs, summons and old star-chamber expenses. It may be for the best, but we doubt it, and are conscientiously oppossed to the Grand Jury system and believe its costs and attending evils vastly more detrimental to the interests of the people than the benefits derived.

* * * * *

The match game of baseball between the Neosho Falls and Buffalo clubs, which was to have been played here last Monday was decided in favor of the Falls club, the Buffalo boys failing to put in an appearance. The Yates Center boys raised up a nine however and played the Falls club, the score standing Neosho Falls Club 40 tallies and the Yates Center boys 12 tallies. Considerable interest was manifested in the game, a large number of ladies and gentlemen being present to witness it.

* * * * *

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

Gilead Lodge, No. 144, A. F. & A. M., hold regular communication or before full moon of each month and every two weeks thereafter. A. M. Palmer, W. M., Geo. D. Carpenter, Secretary pro tem.

W. A. Atchinson, Attorney at Law. Main Street, Neosho Falls.

Peter Bell, Attorney and Counselor at Law. Iola, Kansas. Practices in all courts in Woodson, Allen and surrounding counties. Collections made without fear or favor.

James B. Fry - Land Agent. Will sell improved or unimproved farms. Office upstairs in the News block.

E. Volmey Wharton - Physician and Surgeon, Yates Center, Kans. Calls answered at all hours. Treats diseases of all kinds and makes no specialties.

William Kay, Blacksmith, North side of the public square. Yates Center, Kans., attends promptly to business and guarantees satisfaction. Horse-shoeing a specialty.

THE NEWS

Steinberger & Baker, Publishers - Yates Center, Kansas

E. W. Baker - Editor Friday, June 8, 1877 Vol. 1 - No. 1

Over 50 subscribers names placed upon our books before going to press this, our first week.

It occurs to us that it would be advisable to put up hitching posts around the square to prevent horses breaking down fences.

Yates Center has one of the best schoolhouses in Southeastern Kansas. It is a large stone building and is well finished and comfortable.

The new stone church being erected in the south part of town by the Christian denomination of this place is nearing completion. It will be a valuable improvement to the town.

The following is the enumeration of the inhabitants of Woodson County as returned by the several assessors for the year 1877. Neosho Falls city 505; Neosho Falls township, 517; Everett township, 507; Liberty township, 720; Toronto township, 438; Center township, 562; Belmont township, 438; Eminence township, 316; Owl Creek township, 653; Perry township, 366, making a total of 5040.

A baseball club was organized in this city yeaterday for the purpose of bursting up fingers and 'getting the drop' on the clubs of neighboring towns.

A good pair of ladies shoes for $1.25 at J. W. Depews.

The very best of pure wines and liquors, for medicinal purposes only at J. M. Wolfers Drug Store, Yates Center.

June 15, 1877 THE NEWS Vol. 1 - No. 2

The new addition to the Woodson County courthouse is enclosed and will be completed in the near future.

There is enough muscle expended on baseball in this city to raise a section of the best corn that ever grew in Kansas.

Mr. Kain has recovered sufficiently from his injuries to resume work on the Christian Church building. If no more accidents occur the building will be finished by the first of September.

The following marriage licenses were issued for month ending May 31, 1877. Stephen Chicken to Louise Ibbetson. Isiah Row to Mahala Hodges.

Mr. Isiah Hodges has nearly completed a neat little windmill for the purpose of grinding corn. He thinks he has the power enough for 12 to 15 bushels per hour.

Chris Wilson sent a livery team and saddle horse to the Falls one day last week with passengers. Returning the driver let the saddle horse behind the buggy and drove into the ford on Owl Creek. The off horse became frightened at some drift wood and turned down stream in deep water.

The driver succeeded in getting out but the horses drowned and were found piled up in a drift about one-half mile below the crossing.

June 22, 1877 THE NEWS Vol. 1 - No. 3

Hon. Frank Butler, Saturday shipped 50 head of hogs to St. Louis.

The short bunting dresses of the ladies remind one of a flag flying at half mast.

It is estimated that there are in the neighborhood of 1,000 head of cattle in sight of this city.

June 19- Fourth of July, 1877 - Programme

Procession will form on the public square at ten o'clock a.m., and move around the square to the grounds under charge of the marshall of the day and assistants in the following order; wagons and carriages at the head, citizens on foot in double file arriving at the stand. The exercises will be.

Song by the Glee Club - Prayer by the Chaplain - Music by the Band - Reading of the Declaration - Song by the Glee Club - Oration, Gen. Dexter E. Clapp - Music by Band - Oration, J. E. Pickett, Esq. - Music by Glee Club - Noon Dinner - Martial Music - Music by Glee Club - poem E. W. Baker - Music by Band - Rec., W. S. Shippey - Officers of the Day were, President, Capt. R. A. Hurt; Marshall, Geo. D. Carpenter; Assist. Marshalls, E. V. Wharton and H. S. Johnson.

(Note - This was the first Fourth of July celebration observed in the new city of Yates Center, as the previous year celebration was held in Toronto.)

The Neosho Falls and Buffalo Baseball clubs played a match in this city last Saturday afternoon. The Falls made a run of 34 and the Buffalo club a run of 17.

The German Lutheran Church of Owl Creek will be dedicated on Sunday July 15. Services will be conducted by Rev. S. Kart. The new church is a frame building, 36 feet deep, 24 feet wide. Ceiling 12 feet high.

At the dedication the choir was led by Charles Guesler and Mrs. Rathe as organist.

SETTLERS PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION of KANSAS - 1874
CONSTITUTION

"ARTICLE I — Section 1. This order shall be called The Settlers Protective Association of Kansas.

Section 2 - All powers of the Association shall be vested in a Grand Council and Subordinate Councils.

ARITCLE II —

Subordinate Councils shall be designated by the name of the Township in which they may be severally organized, and also by a number corresponding with the date of their respective organization.

ARTICLE III —

Section 1 - Subordinate Councils shall be composed of actual settlers, or persons whose sympathies are with them, or who have the right views on the land question, and who have not been convicted of an infamous crime.

Section 2 - Every application for membership shall be in writing, accompanied by a fee of one dollar, giving occupation and resident of applicant, and shall be recommended by at least one member, which application shall be presented at a regular meeting, and referred to a committee of two members - neither of whom shall be recommending member - who shall report at the same, or next meeting as to the eligibility of the applicant, by endorsing the same on the back of the petition.

(We will omit sections 3 and 4.)

ARTICLE IV *

The officers of a Subordinate Council shall be Chief Counselor, Vice Counselor, Chief Marshall, Assistant Marshall, Secretary and Treasurer; who shall be elected by ballot, semi-annually, at the monthly meeting in January and July, and shall enter upon their duties as soon as all are elected."

(There are eighteen articles all together but we will omit the rest of them.)

We do not know just how many of these Settlers Protective Associations were organized over Woodson County but there was one organized at Kalida.

We found the minutes of one of the meetings at Kalida, of January 25, 1875, written on some tablet paper.

* * * * *

January 25, 1875

Center Twp. Council of S.P.A. of K.(ansas).

Council opened in due form with 8 members present.

Roll minutes were read and adopted.
Proceeded to elect officers.
For C. C. (Chief Counselor) G. E. Faler was elected.
For Vice-C. J. J. Layton was elected.
Chief Marshall W. M. Kay was elected.
Assistant Marshall S. M. Street was elected.
Secretary James Davidson elected.
Treasurer W. M. Agnew elected.
Delegate to State Council, J. J. Layton was elected.
(Delegate) to Grand Council, T. H. Davidson, I. S. Landis were elected.
Council closed in due form.

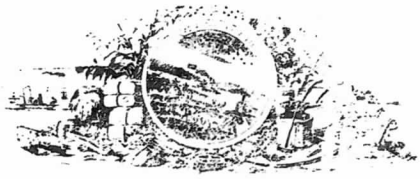
2.25/100 (dues) of quarter
1.00 of initiation

3.25 (Signed) James Davidson, Sect.

* * * * *

CHARTER OF THE

Settlers' Protective Association



We the Grand Council of the Settlers' Protective Association, of Allen and Woodson Counties, Kansas. By these presents do appoint

Jno E Potter to be the Chief Councilor, Bro.

to be the Vice Councilor and Bro.

Secretary of Center Hope Council No 1 and the said Officers and their Successors in office are hereby appointed and authorized to meet and transact such business, and perform all and every act appertaining to the Settlers' Protective Association of Kansas, in their respective localities, conforming in all their proceedings to the Constitution of the Settlers' Protective Association of Kansas, otherwise this WARRANT and the power hereby granted is to cease and be of no further

Given under our hands by authority of the Grand Council of the Settlers' Protective Association in and for Allen and Woodson Counties, and State of Kansas, this

_____ day of April 1859

Jno E Potter G. W. C. C.

R H Pine G. W. V. C.

Attest: A H Hudnell Grand Secretary.

PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Brown's Western Auto
Milton & Virginia Schornick
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand
John V. Glades Agency
Woodson Co. Co-op
Street Abstract Co., Inc.
State Exchange Bank
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety
Hi-way Food Basket
Bill Herman
Piqua Farmer's Co-op
Gaulding Oil Co.
Donald E. Ward
Morton Equipment Co.
Swope & Son Implement Co.
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Clyde Hill
Cantrell Pontiac - Buick
Paul C. Laidlaw
Rogers Bros. Garage
Newtex Manufacturing Co.
J. C. Schnell
W. D. Smith & Son Furniture
Superior Building Supply, Inc.
Glenn Shaw
Pringle Ranch - J. W. & J. Richard
Herring Hardware & Supply
J & W Manufacturing Co
Kimbell Ranch - Ed Kimbell
Woodys Cafe
Edwin H. Bideau Associate Agencies - Chanute
First National Bank - Toronto
Blackjack Cattle Co., Inc.
Yates Center Elevator
Wilma Mark
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Taylor - Gen. Agent
Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Atkin Clinic
Daly Western Supply
Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency
Dyer Chevrolet
Linde Barber Shop
House of Fabrics
Milton & Marcella Wrampe
E. E. Light
Adkin Rexall Pharmacy
Gambles Friendly Store
Campbell Funeral Home
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Baker
Piqua State Bank
Wendall McMurry
Everybody's Grocery
McGinty-Coffman Dept. Store
Al's Jewelry